

KCC 4774 (K-C 15,646B)
PATENTAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable absorbent article comprising:

5 a generally liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin;

an outer cover;

an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste;

10 a surge layer between the liner and absorbent body for taking in liquid body waste penetrating the liner and subsequently releasing liquid body waste for flow toward the absorbent body; and

15 a flow control layer disposed between the liner and ~~absorbent body~~ the surge layer for at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the ~~absorbent body~~ surge layer.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer comprises a liquid permeable material.

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24. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 23 wherein the liquid permeable material comprises a liquid impermeable film having apertures therein.

25. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 24 wherein the apertures in the film are each sized in the range of about 1 mm to about 10 mm.

26. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 25 wherein the apertures in the film each have a size of about 5 mm.

27. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 25 wherein the film has an aperture density of less than or equal to about 14 apertures per square inch.

28. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 24 wherein the film has a thickness of less than or equal to about .003 inches.

29. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 23 wherein the liquid permeable material comprises a meltblown, hydrophobic, non-woven material.

30. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 29 wherein the liquid permeable material has a thickness of less than or equal to about 1 mm.

31. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer comprises a[[n]] liquid impermeable material whereby liquid body waste contacting the flow control layer migrates out toward peripheral edges thereof and then around the edges thereof toward the ~~absorbent body~~ surge layer.

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32. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 31 wherein the liquid impermeable material comprises a film.

33. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 32 wherein the film has a thickness of less than or equal to about 3 [[mil]] mm.

34. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer has a width substantially the same as the width of the surge layer.

35. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer has a length substantially the same as the length of the surge layer.

36. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer has a permeability which is lower than a permeability of the surge layer.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Currently amended) Toilet training pants comprising:
an anterior region, a posterior region and a crotch region
disposed longitudinally therebetween, said anterior region,
posterior region and crotch area being integrally formed and
5 configured to define a central waist opening and a pair of leg
openings of the pants, the crotch region extending generally
laterally between said leg openings;

a generally liquid permeable liner extending from the
anterior region through the crotch region to the posterior
10 region of the pants and being adapted for contiguity with the
wearer's skin;

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an outer cover;

an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for
absorbing liquid body waste;

15 a surge layer between the liner and absorbent body for
taking in liquid body waste penetrating the liner and
subsequently releasing the liquid body waste for flow toward
the absorbent body; and

20 a flow control layer disposed between the liner and the
~~absorbent body~~ surge layer for at least retarding the flow of
liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the ~~absorbent~~
body surge layer.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (Original) Training pants as set forth in claim 38
wherein the flow control layer has a permeability which is
lower than the permeability of the surge layer.

42. - 44. (Canceled).

45. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating flow
back through the liner of a disposable absorbent article to
provide a prolonged feeling of wetness to the wearer of the
article after the wearer releases a surge of liquid body waste
5 therein, the disposable article being of the type having a
liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's
skin, an outer cover and an absorbent body between the liner
and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the
liner, the method comprising:

10 directing liquid body waste penetrating the liner to flow
toward a surge layer disposed between the liner and the

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absorbent body, the surge layer being constructed for taking in liquid body waste and subsequently releasing liquid body waste therefrom;

15 directing liquid body waste released from the surge layer to flow toward the absorbent body for absorption thereby; and

at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste released from the surge layer to the absorbent body by directing liquid body waste in the surge layer to flow past a flow control layer
20 as liquid body waste is released from the surge layer to maintain unabsorbed liquid body waste within the surge layer for a prolonged duration, thereby facilitating the flow back of liquid body waste through the liner to provide a prolonged feeling of wetness to the wearer.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim [[46]] 45 wherein the flow control layer directs liquid body waste to migrate out over the flow control layer toward peripheral edges thereof before flowing past the flow control
5 layer for subsequent flow toward the absorbent body, unabsorbed liquid body waste being substantially maintained in the surge layer as the liquid body waste migrates out over the flow control layer.

48. (Original) A method of facilitating a prolonged feeling of wetness to the wearer of a disposable absorbent article after the wearer releases a surge of liquid body waste therein, the disposable article being of the type having a
5 liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin, an outer cover and an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the

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liner, the method comprising:

10 directing liquid body waste penetrating the liner to flow toward a surge layer disposed between the liner and the absorbent body, the surge layer being constructed for taking in liquid body waste and subsequently releasing liquid body waste therefrom;

15 directing liquid body waste released from the surge layer to flow toward the absorbent body for absorption thereby; and at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the surge layer to maintain unabsorbed liquid body waste in the vicinity of the liner for a prolonged duration, thereby facilitating a prolonged feeling of
20 wetness to the wearer.

49. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer comprises a liquid impermeable material whereby liquid body waste contacting the flow control layer migrates out toward
5 peripheral edges thereof and then around the edges thereof toward the ~~absorbent body~~ surge layer, said liquid impermeable material being adapted to permit at least some liquid body waste that passes through the liner to flow past the flow control layer toward the ~~absorbent body~~ surge layer without
10 migrating outward around the peripheral edges of the flow control layer.

50. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[22]] 20 wherein the flow control layer is secured to the liner.

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51. (Previously presented) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer is constructed at least part from a non-woven material.

52. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 49 wherein the liquid impermeable material has apertures formed therein to permit at least some liquid body waste that passes through the liner to flow past the flow control layer toward the ~~absorbent body~~ surge layer without migrating outward around the peripheral edges of the flow control layer.

53. (Currently amended) Toilet training pants as set forth in claim [[39]] 38 wherein the flow control layer is secured to the liner.

54. (Previously presented) Toilet training pants as set forth in claim 38 wherein the flow control layer is constructed at least part from a non-woven material.